

Essential Words for Spelling and Writing

The 290 words in this section are used most often when you write. Together, they make up about 75% of most writing, so they are important. These words have been arranged in alphabetical order and put in 7 lists according to how often they are used. The words in List 1 are used most often, the words in List 2 next most often, and so on. Because they are used so often, it is very important that you learn to use and spell each one.

Essential List 1

(10 words; 25% of writing)

a and I in it
my the to was were

Essential List 2

(20 words; 15% of writing)

at but for got had
he is me of on
she so that then there
they up went when you

Essential List 3

(30 words; 10% of writing)

about after all are as
back be because came day
down get go going have
her his home into just
like mum not one our
out said some were with

Essential List 4

(50 words; 10% of writing)

again an around big by
can come could dad did
do first food from good
has him house if little
next night no now off
old only or other over
people put ran saw school
see started their them this
time took too us very
well what will would your

Essential List 5

(50 words; 5% of writing)

am another away bed been
before best brother called car
door everyone family five found
friend fun heard here know
last left long looked made
man more morning name never
once play really room something
still thing think thought three
through told too walked want
way where which who year

Essential List 6

(70 words; 5% of writing)

also always asked black boy
bus cat coming cool dark
decided dog eat end even
every eyes fell felt find
four gave getting great head
hit how inside its it's
I'll I'm jump knew later
life live lot lunch make
minutes most much nice opened
outside place ready ride right
run say sister sleep suddenly
take tell ten top town
tree turned until wanted water
while why window woke yes

Essential List 7

(60 words; 3% of writing)

any baby bad ball being bit boat bought camp dead died doing
each ever everything face fast father few finally finished game girl gone
ground guard hand happened happy help hole hot hour let look many
money mother myself new parents picked playing presents road side small sometimes
soon slay stop swimming tea than tried under wait won work world